

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1 to 13 without prejudice and add the following claims 14 to 24:

Claims 1 to 13. (canceled)

14. (new) A thinning tool (1) for an electric hair clipper (2), said electric hair clipper (2) comprising a lower shearing blade (3) with a lower row of teeth (5) and an upper shearing blade (4) with an upper row of teeth (6), said upper shearing blade (4) being swingable back and forth parallel to said lower row of said teeth (5);

wherein said thinning tool (1) comprises

two retaining rails (15, 16) on opposite sides thereof, said retaining rails (15, 16) being embodied so that the thinning tool is placeable on said lower shearing blade (3); and

a row (7) of tines (12) provided with tine slots (11) extending between said tines (12), said tines (12) being provided on lower ends thereof with stops (17) that abut against a free end (19) of the lower shearing blade (3) when the thinning tool is placed on the lower shearing blade (3), so that said tines (12) form an extension (L) of said teeth (5) of said lower row of teeth (5) of said lower shearing blade (13);

wherein said tine slots (11) are provided with conical enlargements (V) at free ends (9) of the tine slots (11) for catching and guiding hairs and said tine

slots (11) each have a width (B) at ends of the tine slots (11) that are opposite to the free ends (9), such that the hairs (10) in each of said tine slots (1) are cut in succession instead of simultaneously;

whereby a finely graduated thinning of the hair is attained without strips when the thinning tool is placed on the lower shearing blade (3) and the electric hair clipper (2) is operated to thin the hair (10).

15. (new) The thinning tool (1) for the electric hair clipper (2) as defined in claim 14, wherein said width (B) of each of said tine slots (11) is equal to a diameter of an individual hair of the hairs.

16. (new) The thinning tool (1) for the electric hair clipper (2) as defined in claim 14, wherein said width (B) of each of said tine slots (11) is equal to 0.2 mm.

17. (new) The thinning tool (1) for the electric hair clipper (2) as defined in claim 14, wherein said tines (12) have a spacing of from 3 to 8 mm from each other and said conical enlargements (V) each have a height (H2) of approximately 3 mm and a width (B1) of approximately 2 mm at each of said free ends (9).

18. (new) The thinning tool (1) for the electrical hair clipper (2) as defined in claim 17, wherein said spacing is 4 mm.

19. A set of thinning tools for an electric hair clipper (2), said electric hair clipper

(2) comprising a lower shearing blade (3) with a lower row of teeth (5) and an upper shearing blade (4) with an upper row of teeth (6), said upper shearing blade (4) being swingable back and forth parallel to said lower row of said teeth (5);

wherein a first thinning tool (1) of said set of said thinning tools comprises two retaining rails (15, 16) on opposite sides thereof, said retaining rails (15, 16) being embodied so that the first thinning tool is placeable on said lower shearing blade (3); and

a row (7) of tines (12) provided with tine slots (11) extending between said tines (12), said tines (12) being provided on lower ends thereof with stops (17) that abut against a free end (19) of the lower shearing blade (3) when the first thinning tool is placed on the lower shearing blade (3), so that said tines (12) form an extension (L) of said teeth (5) of said lower row of teeth (5) of said lower shearing blade (13);

wherein said tine slots (11) are provided with conical enlargements (V) at free ends (9) of the tine slots (11) for catching and guiding hairs and said tine slots (11) each have a width (B) at ends of the tine slots (11) that are opposite to the free ends (9), such that the hairs (10) in each of said tine slots (1) are cut in succession instead of simultaneously;

whereby a finely graduated thinning of the hair is attained without strips when the first thinning tool is placed on the lower shearing blade (3) and the electric hair clipper (2) is operated to thin the hair (10).

20. (new) The set of thinning tools for an electric hair clipper (2) as defined in claim 19, including at least one other thinning tool besides said first thinning tool, said at least one other thinning tool having different hair thinning properties from those of said first thinning tool.

21. (new) The set of thinning tools for an electric hair clipper (2) as defined in claim 20, wherein said at least one other thinning tool is a further thinning tool (1) and said further thinning tool (1) has a row (7) of tines (12) provided with tine slots (11) extending between said tines (12), said tines (12) being provided on lower ends thereof with stops (17) that abut against a free end (19) of the lower shearing blade (3) when said further thinning tool (1) is placed on the lower shearing blade (3), so that said tines (12) form an extension (L) of said teeth (5) of said lower row of teeth (5) of said lower shearing blade (13); and

wherein said tine slots (11) of said further thinning tool (1) have widths (B') that are equal to each other, but different from said width (B) of said tine slots (11) of said first thinning tool.

22. (new) The set of thinning tools for an electric hair clipper (2) as defined in claim 21, wherein said equal widths (B') of said tine slots (11) of said second thinning tool (1) each is in a range of from 0.5 to 1.0 mm.

23. (new) The set of thinning tools for an electric hair clipper (2) as defined in claim 20, wherein said at least one other thinning tool is another thinning tool (1)

and said another thinning tool (1) has a row (7) of tines (12) provided with tine slots (11) extending between said tines (12), said tines (12) being provided on lower ends thereof with stops (17) that abut against a free end (19) of the lower shearing blade (3) when the another thinning tool is placed on the lower shearing blade (3), so that said tines (12) form an extension (L) of said teeth (5) of said lower row of teeth (5) of said lower shearing blade (13), and

wherein said another thinning tool (1) has a different number of said tines (12) than said first thinning tool (1) so that a spacing (A') of said tines (12) in said another thinning tool (1) differs from a spacing (A) of said tines (12) in said first thinning tool (1).

24. (new) The set of thinning tools for an electric hair clipper (2) as defined in claim 20, wherein said at least one other thinning tool is an additional thinning tool (1) and said additional thinning tool (1) has a row (7) of tines (12) provided with tine slots (11) extending between said tines (12), said tines (12) being provided on lower ends thereof with stops (17) that abut against a free end (19) of the lower shearing blade (3) when the additional thinning tool (1) is placed on the lower shearing blade (3), so that said tines (12) form an extension (L) of said teeth (5) of said lower row of teeth (5) of said lower shearing blade (13), and

wherein said tine slots (11) of said additional thinning tool (1) have widths (B'') and (B''') that are not equal to each other and that alternate in a direction from one side of the additional thinning tool to the other and said widths (B'') and (B''') are different from said width (B) of said tine slots (11) of said first thinning